



Information Booklet 2016-2017



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

“V.I.K” stands for Very Important Kids. It describes our concept perfectly: an early childhood education centre that promotes placing children at the centre of their learning experience by letting them take the lead on many aspects of their discovery path. And “Academy”? It points towards our belief that a certain amount of structured activity is necessary to help children progress.

I encourage you to go through this information booklet and discover more about our approaches, beliefs, and programs. I hope that you will consider us as an option for your child’s preschool and kindergarten experience.

Thanks for your interest in V.I.K. Academy!

JULIE ERRMANN, Director & Owner

VISION - MISSION - BELIEFS

VISION

Establish a solid base of life-long learning skills in preschoolers.

MISSION

Through a nurturing, stimulating and personalized French Immersion environment, V.I.K. Academy encourages and supports children's curiosity, independence, communication skills, decision-making, creativity, and individuality.

BELIEFS

Given the right environment and surrounded by a caring and experienced staff, every child has the potential to be successful in his academic experiences.

Adults must ensure that the child's needs are met at school and at home.

Teaching and learning are both exercises of vulnerability that requires trust between adults and students.

LIKE A BIG FAMILY

V.I.K. Academy believes that JK & K students need to experience education at a manageable scale. This was our motivation in creating a centre that is just big enough to offer a complete educational experience, yet, small enough to not be overwhelming for young children.

At V.I.K. Academy, every child and their family should be known by every staff member, and vice versa. We believe in the statement that it takes a village to raise a child. Let us be part of your village!

STAFF

I have spent a tremendous amount of time on recruiting the perfect team. Each staff member has been selected for the love she demonstrated towards working with children, for her dynamism, and for the expertise she could brought to the team.

As a group, we continuously seek professional development opportunities to ensure that we maintain our high standards.

MEALS & SNACKS

Nutritious foods are also important to ensure that children are ready to learn. Healthy snacks and meals are included in the monthly fee. We are currently working with an experienced nutritionist to develop our menu. Monthly menus will be available on our website.

ABOUT FRENCH IMMERSION

French Immersion is a program that, by definition, aims to encourage the acquisition of French. However, old practices have influenced what people think French Immersion might look like in the classroom, or what they can expect from it. Here are a few facts. Feel free to contact our V.I.K. Academy Director for further information on the subject.

No French background is required.

French Immersion is a language acquisition program. Families are not expected to know or learn French, nor are they expected to practice vocabulary outside of classroom time. Bilingual children also find their niche in French Immersion environments as learning experiences are not limited to language acquisition.

Long term exposure is key to acquisition.

According to research, an average of two years of exposure to a language is needed to build a sufficient knowledge, vocabulary and confidence for an individual to begin expressing themselves in this language. Students will first develop their ear to the language, learn to navigate the added references, slowly expand their vocabulary, and eventually, take the leap towards verbal expression.

F.I. is a program promoting learning experiences through French.

French is not the only learning objective of French Immersion. Children continue to be exposed to a rich and stimulating environment. The difference is that they are also exposed to two languages to help them interpret the world around them.

Benefits children in their learning experience.

If French Immersion is not a long term goal for your family, you should still remember that brain development greatly benefits from being exposed to a second language. Learning a second language expands the mind in ways otherwise unachievable.

ABOUT OUR LEARNING APPROACHES

A balanced-approach

The term “balanced-approach” means that we consciously chose to not restrict ourselves to a single pedagogical approach. Modern educational philosophies promote the combination of various approaches to stimulate various acquisition, therefore supporting the development of multiple skills. We believe that Preschool & Kindergarten years should also allow children to discover their own learning preferences. This should help parents make enlightened decisions about their child’s future school path. Here are some of the approaches we promote at V.I.K. Academy:

Play-based learning & movement integration

For children, playing is a way of learning. It allows them a chance to reinvest their recently acquired learned skills and knowledge such as: language skills, social skills, conflict resolution, fine and gross motor skills, decision making and creativity.

Discovery-based learning

Discovery-based learning is an educational approach that places children in “open ended” learning situations where children have a chance to make their own hands-on discovery. Children become active rather than passive learners.

Academic learning

In Preschool years, it is important to focus on learning that will prepare children for their upcoming experiences (such as pencil grip, writing letters) and initiate critical thinking.

21ST CENTURY LEARNING

21st century learning is an internationally recognized and upcoming educational philosophy. Its premise is simple ***“What will children of the 21st century need to be successful in their future”***. Its implementation has been more complex. Amongst some of its leading concepts we find two of relevance in this context:

- **Children should be placed at the center of their learning experience;**
- **Children should be encouraged to develop a series of life-long skills.**

The Alberta Ministry of Education has articulated its Education Reform around the 21st Century Learning philosophy, and thus, since the publishing of *Inspiring Education* (2010).

Children at the center of their learning experience

Activities are built around children’s interest, day schedule is based on their ability to focus and their need to move, adults need to remain flexible and adjust to children, etc.

Life-long skills (aka Cross Curricular Skills)

Rather than only promoting the acquisition of a set of knowledge, this philosophy also encourages children to develop themselves as individuals through the learning experiences.

Multiple models of cross curricular skills exist. Alberta Education currently use the following list:

- know how to learn
- literacy skills (language & math)
- communication & collaboration
- think critically
- problem solving
- manage information
- innovate
- create opportunities
- cultural and global awareness
- personal well- being.

PROGRAMS

DIFFERENT OPTIONS FOR DIFFERENT CHILDREN

V.I.K. Academy offers a variety of options to better suit your child's needs as well as yours. You will find below the various time schedules; more information about each program can be found in the following pages.

Please note that our Full Day academic programs from 8:30am to 3:30pm and include meals & snacks. The half-days Junior Kindergarten programs are offered for a period of 3 hours. Snacks only are provided for part time programs.

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

There are multiple options for Junior Kindergarten students:

- **2 full days (Tuesday & Thursday)**
- **3 full days (Monday, Wednesday & Friday)**
- **5 full days (Monday through Friday)**
- **5 Half days AM: 8:30am to 11:30 am**

KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergarten program is the following:

- **5 full days (Monday through Friday)**

EXTENDED DAYS

We understand that regular program hours (8:30 to 3:30) do not always match your working schedule. For this reason, V.I.K. Academy offers the optional EXTENDED DAYS for our students. Students signed up in the Extended Days Program will be supervised by staff members between the hours of **7:00am to 8:30am** and/or between **3:30pm and 6:00pm**.

PROGRAMS

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN (JK)

FULL DAY PROGRAMS

Junior Kindergarten (JK) is a structured program intended for children qualifying for Kindergarten the following year. Children must turn 4 before March 1st of the attending year to qualify for the full time program. If your child is slightly younger but ready for a school experience, we would recommend the 2 days or 3 days program.

Children in Junior Kindergarten become familiarized with French and basic academic concepts. At this age, children go through multiple activities in a whole day: songs, movements, crafts, art, free play, outdoor play, music, pencil grip, etc. A balance between structured and unstructured activities best fit this age group.

At V.I.K. Academy, JK students are assigned to an educator who will guide 8 students throughout their activities. This format allows the adult to know your child very well and develop a close relationship with him. We find that to be a key factor in the development of young children.

HALF DAY PROGRAM

Half Day Programs are designed as a school experience introduction for younger children. All students must be 3 years old before beginning and must be able to use the toilet independently. If your child strives on routine but is not ready yet for a full time schedule, a half day program might be the best fit.

PROGRAM

FULL DAY K

Alberta Education provides Educators with a curriculum offering guidelines for part time programs. Being a Full Day program means that not only can we meet those requirements, but we can do so much more!

In our enriched program, there will still be plenty time for playing, learning to interact with others, move, and rest. But the extra time allows us to also work on the development of your child as a whole individual, introduce him to early literacy and numeracy, expand his French language skills, and create multiple learning experience placing your child in a world of hands-on discovery.

Full day schedule also allows your child to be exposed to an artistic program (Arts, Music, Dance & Drama) and a physical development program (yoga, gross motor skills, out-of-school programs) and to participate in a variety of field trips.

At V.I.K. Academy, our Kindergarten classroom can accommodate 20 students under the supervision of 2 adults at all times.



SUMMER CHILD CARE SERVICES

Academic programs at V.I.K. Academy run on a 10 month schedule, beginning in September and ending in June. During the months of July and August, V.I.K. Academy offers Child Care Services from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm for a flat monthly fee.

FACILITY

V.I.K. Academy is located in a stand-alone building that is shared with one take-out restaurant. Being located on the first floor, we enjoy lots of natural light as well as a direct access to our two fenced areas. Renovations and playground construction are will be completed in Spring 2016.



WHEN YOU ARE READY TO REGISTER

Step 1

If you would like to register your child, the first step is to print and return the REGISTRATION FORM. Please ensure that the form is complete and the payment has been made to **V.I.K. Academy Ltd**. As soon as the payment is received, your name is on the priority list.

Keep an eye for of our open houses in Spring: registration fees are waived for families signing up on those days!

Step 2

Upon review of your file, the Director will contact you to schedule a face-to-face meeting. This is a great opportunity for getting to know each other. Please bring any questions you may have as well as the required documents (you will receive a list).

Step 3

If all parties are happy with the meeting, we will proceed with setting up your payment. At this point, your child has a space reserved for him/her.

Step 4

Once the first month payment has been made, you will receive, free of charge, three V.I.K. Academy uniforms' polo shirts.

FEE SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION FEE:

One-time non-refundable registration fee: \$ 150.00 per child

MONTHLY TUITION (*Full days are 8:30am to 3:30pm*)

JK 2 days (Tuesday & Thursday)	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,000 yearly
JK 3 days (Monday, Wednesday & Friday)	\$ 750.00	\$ 7,500 yearly
JK 5 days	\$1,000.00	\$10,000 yearly
JK 5 days HALF DAYS (8:30-11:30)	\$ 600.00	\$ 6,000 yearly
K 5 days	\$1,000.00	\$10,000 yearly

EXTENDED DAYS

5 days AM ONLY (7:00am to 8:30am)	\$ 125.00 monthly
5 days PM ONLY (3:30pm to 6:00pm)	\$ 200.00 monthly
JK 2 days AM & PM	\$ 150.00 monthly
JK 3 days AM & PM	\$ 200.00 monthly

SUMMER CHILD CARE (7:00am to 6:00pm) \$1,300.00 monthly
\$ 400.00 weekly

EXTRA FEES & FIELD TRIPS

At V.I.K. Academy, monthly fees are inclusive of the entire educational experience. There are no additional fees. All field trips are included.

MANDATORY VOLUNTEERING HOURS

You will occasionally be invited to volunteer based on your interests and availability. However, there are no mandatory volunteering hours.

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY

Qualifying families can apply for Government Subsidy.
For more info, please view the following link.

<http://humanservices.alberta.ca/financial-support/15104.html>



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